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Westmoreland vs. CBS: week nine. Former Defense Secretary Robert McNamara testified last week that he did not believe General William Westmoreland had tried to suppress enemy troop strength estimates during the Vietnam War and that even if he had tried, he would not have succeeded. He said CIA intelligence-gathering activities there provided a reliable "cross-check" on military estimates of enemy strength. McNamara, forced by the Westmoreland libel suit against CBS to break his long-standing self-imposed ban on commenting publicly about the Vietnam conflict, also testified last week that he said as much to George Crile, producer of the 1982 CBS documentary that prompted the law suit. Crile phoned the former defense secretary (1961-68) in the spring of 1981 to present to him evidence he believed indicated that enemy strength figures had been suppressed by Westmoreland. But McNamara said he dismissed that evidence as "illustrative" of the many controversies that emerged relating to intelligence matters. "I kept repeating [to Crile] I did not believe the data had been falsified," McNamara testified. "I did not believe data had been suppressed, I did not believe General Westmoreland had conspired to deceive the President and me." He said he believed Westmoreland then and now to be "a person of tremendous integrity with whom I had major policy disagreements, but who served his country well, and whom I have the highest regard for."